

2. HIS MAIESTIES
DECLARATION

To all His loving Subjects.

After His Victories over

THE LORD FAIRFAX
IN THE NORTH.

AND

SIR WILLIAM WALLER
IN THE WEST.

AND

THE TAKING OF BRISTOLL
by His MAJESTIES Forces.

CHARLES R.

Our expresse Pleasure is, That this Our Declaration be Published in all Churches and Chappels within the Kingdome of England and Dominion of Wales, by the Pastors, Vicars or Curates of the same.

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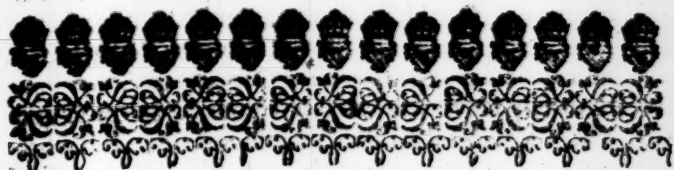
AND THE TERRITORY OF MARYLAND

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AND THE TERRITORY OF VIRGINIA

AND THE TERRITORY OF NORTH CAROLINA

AND THE TERRITORY OF SOUTH CAROLINA



HIS MAJESTIES
DECLARATION
To all His loving Subjects.

AFTER
HIS VICTORIES OVER
 The LORD FAIRFAX in the North,
 Sir WILLIAM WALLER in the West,
 and the taking of *Bristol* by His
Majesties Forces.



As the Grievances and losses of no particular Persons since these miserable bloody Distempers have disquieted this poor Kingdome, can be compared to the losse and damage We Our Self have sustained, there having been no Victory obtained but in the Blood of Our Owne Subjects, nor no Rapine or Violence committed but to the impoverishment, and ruine of Our Owne People, so a blessed and a happy Peace cannot be so acceptable and welcome

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welcome to any man as to Us. Almighty God to whom all the secrets of Our Heart are open, who hath so often, and so miraculously preserved Us, & to whose Power alone We must attribute the goodnesse of Our present Condition, (how unhappy soever it is with reference to the publique Calamities) knowes with what unwillingnesse, with what anguish of Soule, We submitted Our Selfe to the necessity of taking up Defensive Armes: and the World knowes with what Justice, and Bounty Wee had repaired Our Subjects for all the Pressures and Inconveniences they had borne, by such excellent Laws as would for ever have prevented the like; and with what earnestnesse and importunity We desired to add any thing for the establishment of the Religion, Lawes, and Liberty of the Kingdome. How all these have been disturbed, invaded, and almost destroyed by Faction, Sedition, and Treason, by those who have neither Reverence to God, or Affection to Men, but have sacrificed both to their owne Ends and Ambition, is now so evident, that We hope, as God hath wonderfully manifested His care of Us, and his defence of His, & Our most just Cause, so He hath so farre touched the hearts of Our People, that their Eyes are at last opened to see how miserably they have been seduced, and to abhorre those Persons who Malice and Subtilty have seduced them to dishonour him, to Rebell against Us, and to bring so much misery and calamity upon their native Country.

We well remember the Protestation voluntarily made by Us, in the head of that small Army We were Master of in September last, to defend and maintain the true reformed Protestant Religion, and if it should please God by his blessing upon that Army to preserve Us from this Rebellion, that Wee would maintaine the just Priviledges and Freedom of Parliament, and governe by the knowne Lawes of the

the Land, for whose defence in truth that Army was only raised, and hath been since kept. And there cannot be a more seasonable time to renew that Protestation then now, when God hath vouchsafed Us so many Victories and Successes, and hath rendered the power of those who seek to destroy Us, lesse formidable then it hath been, (so that We shall probably not fall under the scandalous Imputation which hath usually attended Our Messages of Peace, That they proceeded from the weaknesse of Our power, not love of Our People) and when there is more freedome in many Counties for Our good Subjects to receive true information of their owne and Our Condition, the knowledge whereof hath been with equall Industry and Injustice kept from them, as other acts of Cruelty have been imposed on them. We doe therefore declare to all the World in the presence of Almighty God to whom Wee must give a strict account of all Our Professions and Protestations, That Wee are so farre from intending any alteration of the Religion established (as hath been often falsely, scandalously, and against the Conscience of the Contrivers themselves of that rumour suggested to Our People) or from the least thought of invading the Liberty and Property of the Subject, or violating the just Priviledges of Parliament, that We call that God to witnesse, who hath covered Our Head in the day of Battell, that We desire from Our Soule, and shall alwayes use Our utmost endeavour to preserve and advance the true Reformed Protestant Religion established in the Church of England, in which We were borne, have faithfully lived, and by the grace of God shall resolutely dye; That the preservation of the Liberty and Property of the Subject in the due observation of the knowne Laws of the Land, shall be equally Our care as the maintenance of Our Owne Rights, We desiring to governe only by

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those good Lawes, which till they were oppressed by this odious Rebellion, preserved this Nation happy; and We do acknowledge the just Priviledges of Parliament to be an essentiall part of those Lawes, and shall therefore most solemnly defend and observe them. So that in truth it either Religion, Law or Liberty be pretious to Our People, they will by their submission to Us joyn with Us, in the defence of them, and thereby establish that Peace, by which only they can flourish and bee enjoyed. Whether these men, who are professed Enemies to the established Ecclesiasticall Government, who reproach and persecute the Learned Orthodox Ministers of the Church, and into their places put Ignorant, Seditious, and Schismaticall Preachers, who vilifie the Book of Common-Prayer, and impiously prophane Gods Worship with their scurrillous and seditious demeanour, are like to advance that religion; whether those men who boldly, and without the least shadow or colour of Law, impose insupportable Taxes and odious Excises upon their fellow Subjects, Imprison, Torment, and murder them, are like to preserve the Liberty, and Property of the Subject; and whether those men who seise and possesse themselves of Our Own unquestionable Revenue, and Our just Rights, have denied Us Our Negative Voyce, have by Force and Violence awed & terrified the Members of both Houses, and lastly, have, as far as in them lies, dissolved the present Parliament by driving away & imprisoning the Members, and resolving the whole power thereof, and more, into a Committee of a few Men, contrary to all Law, Custome, or President, are like to vindicate and uphold the Priviledges of Parliament, all the world may judge. We do therefore once more conjure our good Subjects by their memory of that excellent Peace, and firme happinesse with which, it pleased God to reward their Duty and Loyalty

alty in time past, by their Oathes of Allegiance, and Supremacy which no new Vow, or Covenant contrived, and administered to and by themselves, can cancell or evade, by whatsoever is deare and precious unto them in this life, or hoped or prayed for in the life to come, That they will remember their Duty and consider their Interest, and no longer suffer themselves to be misled, their Prince dishonored, and their Country wasted and undone, by the malice and cunning of these State Impostours, who under pretence of Reformation would introduce whatsoever is monstrous & unnaturall both to Religion and Policy, but that they rather chuse quietly to enjoy their Religion, Property, and Liberty, founded and provided for by the wisdom and industry of former times, and secured and enlarged by the blessings upon the present Age, then to spend their lives and fortunes to purchase Confusion; and to make themselves lyable to the most intollerable kinde of slavery, that is, to be slaves to their fellow Subjects, who by their prodigious unheard of Acts of Oppression and Tyranny, have given them sufficient evidence what they are to expect at their hands. And let not Our good People, who have been misled, or through want of understanding, or want of Courage submitted themselves to unwarrantable and disloyal Actions, be taught by their Seducers, that their safety now consists in despaire, and that they can only secure themselves for the Ills they have done, by a resolute and pre-emptory Disobedience. Revenge and Blood-thirstynesse have never been imputed to Us by those, who have left neither Our Government or Nature unexamined with the greatest boldnesse and malice: and all those who since these bloody Distractions out of Conscience have returned from their evill wayes to Us, have found that it was not so easie for them to repent, as to Us to forgive; and whosoever hath
been

been misled by those, whose hearts from the beginning have designed all this mischief, and shall redeem their past Crimes by their present service and Loyalty in the apprehending, or opposing such who shall continue to beare Armes against Us, and shall use their utmost endeavours to reduce those men to their due Obedience, and to restore this Kingdome to its wonted Peace, shall have cause to magnifie Our mercy, and to repent the Trespases committed against so just and Gracious a Sovereigne. Lastly, We desire all Our good Subjects, who have really assisted or really wished Us well, now God hath done such wonderfull things for Us, vigorously to endeavour to put an end to all these miseries, by bringing in Men, Money, Plate, Horses, or Armes to Our Aide, that so, Wee being not wanting to Our selves may with confidence expect the continuance of Gods favour to restore Us all to that blessed harmony of affections, which may establish a firme Peace, without the speedy obtaining of which this poore Kingdome will be utterly undone, though not absolutely lost.

FINIS

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